50X1-HUM

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 8 FEB 1954

SUBJECT United Carborundum and Electric Works Company, Benatky nad Jizerou

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 1 (LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

DATE OF

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

Ownership

1. The United and Electric Works Company is located in Benatky nad Jizerou. Except during World War II when it was controlled by the Germans, this company was controlled by French shareholders until 1949 when it was nationalized by the Czech government without compensation to the shareholders.

Products and Manufacturing Processes

2. Synthetic corundite is the only abrasive produced by this company. There are no other products or by-products. The abrasive is manufactured in resistance furnaces, broken with jaw crushers and sorted by classified screens. The designed capacity of the plant is 15 thousand metric tons per year, at which rate the plant is presently operating. Since the demand is greater than the capacity production, it is planned to expand the plant by approximately 50%.

Plant Facilities

3. The old buildings of the plant are of normal construction, that is of iron and red bricks. The main production buildings are 20x120 meters whereas the classifier equipment manufacturing building, (see paragraph 5 below) the shops and stores are 15x60 meters. The main administration building located at the main entrance is 15x50 meters; it is "L" shaped and has three stories.

4. The new buildings under construction in late 1951 are of reinforced concrete.

5. Most of the important plant machinery is very old, maybe 50 years, and is partly of [redacted] origin. It is in very poor mechanical condition and requires no special technical ability to operate. There are twelve single-phase electric resistance

50X1-HUM

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

DISTRIBUTION

OSR EV

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

50X1-HUM

furnaces, each with its own main and regulating transformers (made by CKD). They are obsolete and of primitive construction. Fall bodies are used to break the large manufactured blocks of abrasives. The plant has eight jaw-crushers manufactured by Skoda, Pilsen. Screens used to classify the abrasive material are manufactured in the plant's own shop.

Management and Labor

6. [redacted] in late 1951 the manager of the factory was a man who formerly had been a smith at the plant. This is the usual Communistic practice. There are about 40 management and engineering personnel and about 15 technical personnel.

50X1-HUM

7. There is a shortage of manpower in the plant. There are about 300 employees, 40 of whom, as stated above, are management or engineering personnel. About 15% of the labor is skilled, the rest is unskilled. Forty percent of the employees are women. About 50% of the employees are living near the plant; the remainder live in villages not far from the plant. Practically all personnel are of Czech (Bohemian or Moravian) descent. There are no training facilities since the locksmiths and fitters are recruited from other plants. The workers require just a few weeks training to operate the furnaces and breaking plant.

Services

8. The plant obtains power from the grid. Power consumption is between 2 and 2.25 KWH per kilogram of abrasive. The total annual consumption of power of the plant is about 30-35 million KWH (power consumption is calculated from production, not independently known).

9. The river provides the plant with an unlimited supply of water, requiring only mechanical (rotary screen) equipment to make it usable.

Raw Materials

10. The plant consumes 15 thousand metric tons of alumina annually. Lately the government has required the factory to use Hungarian alumina exclusively. This alumina is undesirable because it is too finely ground, causing high processing losses, and has a very high sulphur content which produces undesirable gases against which the employees are not protected. In 1951 there were some reserves of alumina smuggled in from Italy, a practice which I believe will be energetically continued. This alumina was used before and during World War II and has been demonstrated to be of better quality. A large alumina plant is scheduled to come into operation in late 1954 in Czechoslovakia. This will provide another source of alumina.

11. The annual consumption of anodic past (carbon) is very variable, depending on the quality of the paste used in its manufacture. The source of this carbon is the Siemens Plania in Ratibor, Poland.

Transportation and Storage

12. All internal handling of raw material and end products is by hand. They are transported in small paper or textile bags by wheel-barrow. All goods are received or shipped by rail, since the plant is directly on the State railroad.

13. There are facilities for bulk storage for six months; these are located in the vicinity of the furnaces building.

14. The plant has adequate fire-fighting personnel and equipment. Safe bomb shelters are provided for the total personnel. Many provisions were made during World War II to establish adequate anti aircraft protection.

15. The plant has its own militia, a practice which is characteristic in Czechoslovakia for guarding the physical plant and checking personnel for authorization. There are no special restricted areas in the plant.

50X1-HUM

Enclosure (A): Sketch Showing Layout of the United Carborundum and Electric Works Company in Benatky nad Jizerou.

SECRET

ENCLOSURE (A)

SECRET

50X1-HUM

SKETCH SHOWING LAYOUT OF THE UNITED CARBORUNDUM AND ELECTRIC WORKS COMPANY IN BENATKY NAD JIZEROU